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Name:

**Dear student,**

This term we are studying Australian Landscapes. Your major assessment for the unit is to conduct (carry out) an enquiry answering the question **‘What makes Australia unique?’ relating specifically to landscapes.**

**BUT...** this question is too big to be answered in a few simple words.

*To begin with, mainland Australia is the Earth’s largest island but smallest continent with an area of 7.69 million square kilometres. It stretches about 3700 kilometres from north to south and 4000 kilometres from east to west.*

“*The Australian landscape is distinctive and varied. In the centre and the west there are vast stony and sandy deserts; in the east, sweeping plateaus and plains flank narrow coastal slopes. Australia’s coast features broad sandy beaches and lush vegetation. These are backed by a great variety of landforms, ranging from the steep cliffs of the Blue Mountains west of Sydney and the eroded volcanic rock of the Glasshouse Mountains north of Brisbane, to flat plains on the southern coast west of Adelaide”* (DTFA 2008: online).

See <http://www.dfat.gov.au/aib/island_continent.html> for more information

Taking all of this on board, it is easy to see how quickly the big question could get out of hand..! This leads us to **step one: designing a question.**  Each of you need to devise (create) your very own question from this, relating directly to a specific Australian landscape.

If you are beginning to panic... don’t...!

The following information in this booklet, and resources avaliable on the **Wikispace** will help you along the way. In the booklet you will find all sorts of helpful thing; **mind-maps**, **research tips**, **presentation suggestions** and the all-important **assessment criteria**.

This task will give you flexiblity to extend yourselves and show just how much you are capable of. While it may seem a little scary to begin with, some careful planning and a little enthusiasm will go a long way.

After all.. *How do you eat an elephant? ... One bite at a time!*

designing a question

Devise your very own question, relating directly to a specific Australian landscape.

**The possibilites are endless, but don’t dwell on this for too long.** Think about the places you have been in Australia; is there somewhere you would like to know more about? Take a look at the Australian monopoly board... what places do you see represented? What Australian regions do you hear about in the media?

There are **two** parts needed to create a question...

1. **The region (place or area)**
2. **The problem/change**

*Oh, and of course your question needs to have a at the end of it!*

You may choose to focus on the Riverland region of South Australia and the impact of farming and drought on the landscape. But wait... this is not a question..! What about:

**“How has the landscape of the Riverland region of South Australia been impacted by farming and drought?”**

OR

**“What has contributed to the changing landscapes of the Riverland region of South Australia?”**

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Brainstorming

*Fill out the table below, considering possibilities for your enquiry...*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Place** | **Landscape** | **Known impacts/enviro issues** |
| **Murray River Region/Riverland Sout Australia** | **River, mallee** | **Salinity, farming (fruit), drought, plague** |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

initial research

**Before you get too keen about your topic and dive into the nitty-gritty... think about what you need to find out.**

* What do you already know about the region?
* Have you been there before?
* What resources are available for you to find information?
* How difficult will your question be to answer?

**Spend some time researching your topic.** Most of us would have experienced getting half way into an assessment task and realising we are not able to meet the criteria and have to start over..! This step is designed to eliminate this from happening!

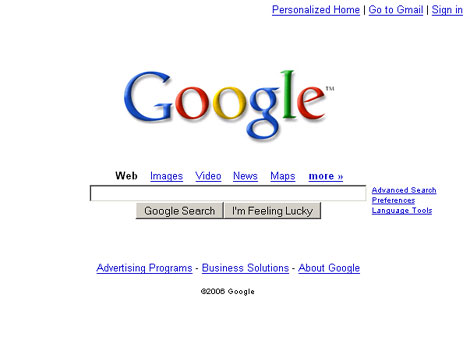
*\*Get onto the net, use the search engines to have a quick look at what information is around. Drop into the library and see what you can get hold of. Is there news articles in the media that will be valuable to you? Do you know an expert in the field?*

Using the **internet** for research...

Sometimes when we use the internet we forget that not all resources are good resources. If we focus on the following question:

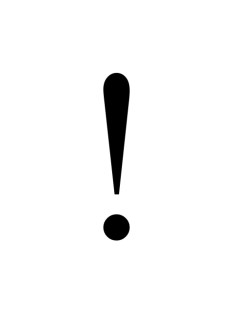
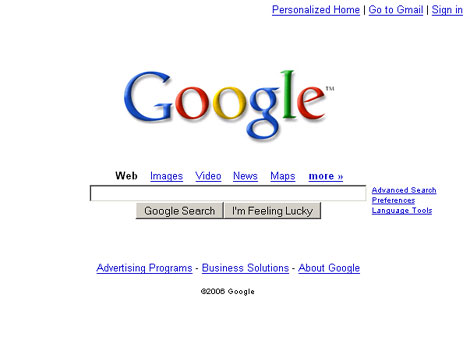
**“What has contributed to the changing landscapes of the Riverland region of South Australia?”**

**What would you type into a search engine?**



**What are the impacts of landscapes of the riverland?**

This type of search will bring up all sorts of information that is irrelevant to you. How can you avoid this..? Use keywords, be specific and ask the engine to find what you **REALLY** want.

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**Riverland environmental issues**

You are presented with pages and pages of information....! Now what?

Trust is a must!?

**Do you always trust everything you are told? How do you know who to believe and who to dismiss?**

Here is something to think about – the internet has no system of quality control – so you need to be careful about which information you use and do NOT trust everything you read. If you find a site that declares Adelaide is located in northern Queensland you will obviously know that is not true... but what about topics you are less sure of?

* **Anyone can put something on the Internet** an amateur or an expert
* **From anywhere in the World**

be it the United Kingdom or Uruguay

* **They can say anything they like**

be it true or false

* **And leave it there as long as they like**

even if it goes out of date

* **Or change it without warning**

perhaps even remove it completely

Remember...

Most people use very simple search techniques when they want to find information on the Internet using a **search engine** such as Google.

These can produce thousands if not millions of web sites to explore: some information will be **useful**, some will be **useless** – it’s up to you to discern which is which!

Visit Internet Detective for more info:

<http://www.vts.intute.ac.uk/detective/thebad.html>

IF IN DOUBT, LEAVE IT OUT!

It must be true,

I read it on the internet!

### On the WWW ask WWW

### Who? What? Where?

**Who?** - question the source of information

**What?** - question the content of information

**Where?** - question the location of the information

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narrowing down the topic

By now you have done a bit of research and have an idea about what resources are avaliable and what is out there it is time to narrow it down. Your initial question is too broad to answer in one chunk.

**To make this easy, break it down...**

**TOPIC:** ‘What has contributed to the changing landscapes of the Riverland region of South Australia?”

**Find three points that you could focus on to answer this question.** Let’s say you found in your initial reserach that drought popped up time and time again, then drought may be one of your focal points.

* **Detailed description of natural features** (eg landforms, climates, soils, habitats)
* **Detailed description of built features** (eg population, function, culture, time, resources, economics, transport, politics, laws, management decisions)

**Change to physical landscape? Ie drying of river?**

**Weather patterns**

1. **Drought**

# It pays to plan ahead...

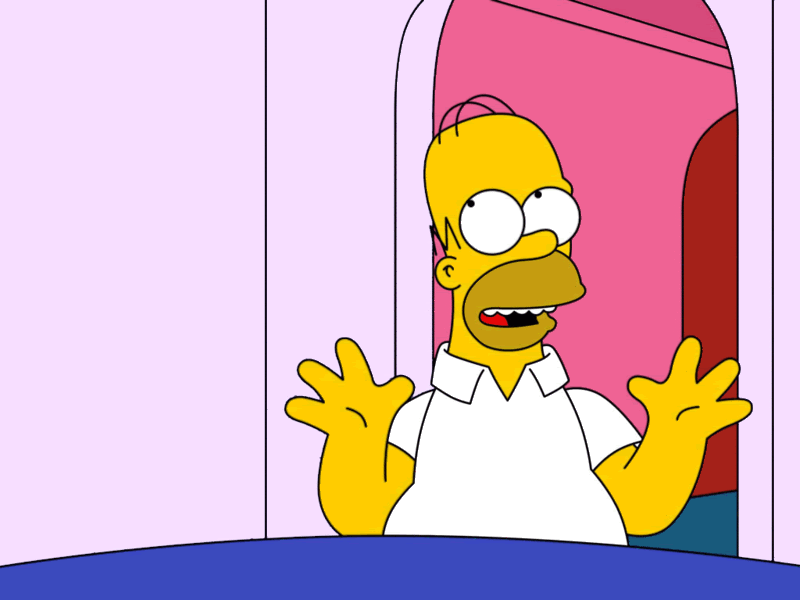
# It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.

**What is farmed? Citrus?**

**Overuse of land/soil degregation?**

1. **Farming**

**Impacts on river? Irrigation?**

1. **[](javascript:void(0);)Settlement**

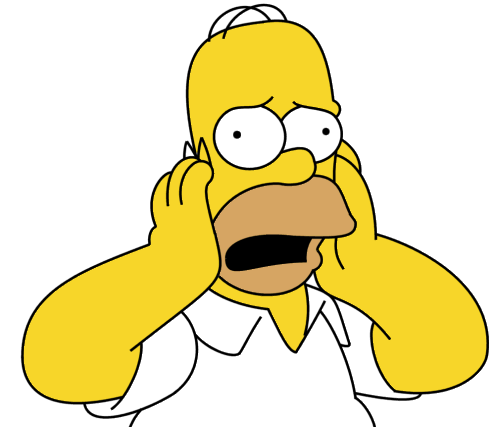
**Townships, roads**

\*All of these above points connect together and overlap... it is much easy to address the smaller questions than one big one!

 MIND-MAPPING

**Following the example given on the previous page break your topic down into sub-questions.**

Doh! What was that thought I had... wait... No, its gone..

**[](javascript:void(0);)**

presentation

One of the most exciting aspects is the presentation of your enquire. For this assessment task you can really use your creative abilities.

Taking into consideration the duration of time you have for this enquiry, you will be required to present 1000 words or equivilant. As the presentations are so flexible, check with your teacher before you finalise your mode of presentation to ensure it is substantial.

**Don’t be afraid to think outside the square... why not team up two or more modes to present a collection of materials!**



Ways to present

**VOKI-** [**http://www.voki.com/**](http://www.voki.com/)Voki is a useful and different way to present information. Don't just take my word for it though, use the link to check it out yourself.  
 **ANIMOTO-** [**\*\*http://animoto.com/\*\***](http://animoto.com/)Animoto could also be an option; here's an example:[**http://animoto.com/play/rXjiHYbk0H0SDRiLaYL2mA**](http://animoto.com/play/rXjiHYbk0H0SDRiLaYL2mA) **PHOTOSTORY-** [**http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/using/digitalphotography/photostory/default.mspx**](http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/using/digitalphotography/photostory/default.mspx)A similar option to Animoto which may also suit your needs.   
 **PREZI-** [**http://prezi.com/**](http://prezi.com/)Most of you have already seen Prezi in action. (

<http://prezi.com/mohshuoe-qcf/google-search-tricks/>)

assessment criteria/checklists

For this task you will be assessed against the following criteria:

**ESSENTIAL CRITERIA**

🞏 Has selected a specific Australian region/landscape and using maps

🞏 Has included a detailed description of natural landscapes (eg landforms, climates, soils, habitats)

🞏 Has included a detailed description of built landscapes (eg population, function, culture, time, resources, economics, transport, politics, laws, management decisions)

🞏 Has shown factors affecting land use/changes to landscapes

🞏 Included references to efforts in sustainability

🞏 Has acknowledged Indigenous links to the land

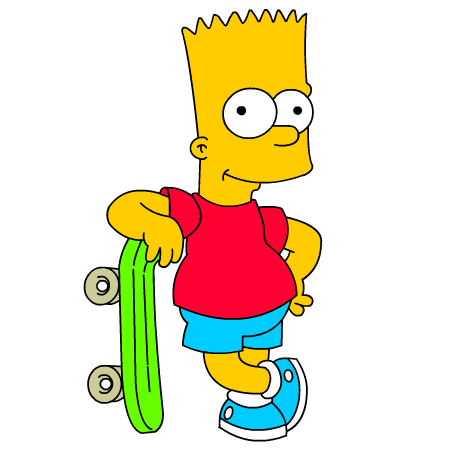
**IMPORTANT CRITERIA**

🞏 Has included relevant maps, clearly labelled

🞏 Mode of presentation is appropriate and relative

🞏 Has produced sufficient research and detail (600-800 words, 3-4 minutes)

Don’t forget to use the checklist before you submit your work!

🞏 Has submitted work on the due date & included bibliography

Goodluck, boys.